

4861 '99 NOV 19 P2:11

November 8, 1999

Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sirs:

I am quite concerned with the proposed FDA legislation to require next-of-kin interview for all cornea donors due to concerns over the transmission of CJD. I have been doing corneal transplantation for fifteen years, having performed well over 1,000 corneal transplants. I do not see how this new legislation will, in any way, help the public. There is ample scientific evidence that a family interview will not have any great measure of effect in curtailing the incidence of CJD. This legislation will create a significant reduction of available donor corneal transplant tissue and will, in effect, be detrimental to the health of those who require this tissue.

I hope that you reconsider the tremendous negative impact that this legislation will have as a public health measure.

Sincerely yours,



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Edward W. D. Norton Chair in Ophthalmology
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ECA:ls

Cc: Michael Grimmett, M.D.
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the Palm Beaches

Mary Anne Taylor
Florida Lions Eye Bank

DD: 11/05/1999
DT: 11/06/1999

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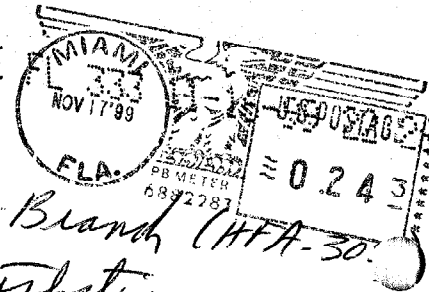
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